

**METHOD, APPARATUS AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR
IMPLEMENTING BREAKPOINT BASED PERFORMANCE
MEASUREMENT**

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A method, apparatus and computer program product are provided for
implementing breakpoint based performance measurement. A set of
hardware counters is defined for counting user specified hardware events.
The hardware counters are programmable for counting predefined processor
10 events and the predefined processor events include processor cycles. A
start breakpoint instruction and a stop breakpoint instruction are inserted in
hardware instructions. The hardware instructions are executed and
processing of the hardware instructions is suspended responsive to
executing the start breakpoint instruction. Responsive to executing the start
15 breakpoint instruction, interrupt handler instructions are entered and
breakpoint instructions are called. The breakpoint instructions generating a
return from interrupt instruction to start the defined set of hardware counters
and to return processing from the interrupt handler instructions to the
hardware instructions. Then executing the hardware instructions is
20 suspended responsive to executing the end breakpoint instruction to stop
the defined set of hardware counters.